FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

30 JULY 1986

Lebanon

Political leaders from all sides denounced the wave of car bombs, Beirut radio reported, noting Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri's view that the attacks were perpetrated by agents of "Israel's death machine." On the Christian side the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reiterated its allegation that Syria is responsible, claiming that Syrian Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an recently chaired a meeting in Shtawrah, attended by "a former leading personality," during which the conferees discussed ways to send booby-trapped cars into the Christian sector. President Amin al-Jumayyil condemned the Al-Barbir bombing in remarks reported by Beirut radio and called on security forces to take measures to prevent further attacks of this kind. As for the latest casualty toll of the explosion in Al-Barbir, Beirut radio reported that 21 people were killed and 166 were injured.

Brig Gen Kan'an discussed the progress of the security plan in a statement cited by Voice of Lebanon radio, stressing that Syria will not allow the security plan for the southern suburb to suffer any setbacks and that it is strong enough to handle any situation. Kan'an, who heads Syrian intelligence in Lebanon, also denied any knowledge of the fate of the remaining foreign hostages. Nevertheless, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has informed his Greek counterpart that Syria has intensified its efforts to obtain the release of the hostages in Lebanon, according to a Greek source cited by Radio Monte Carlo.

Bush Tour

Vice President George Bush's meeting with Palestinian personalities in Jerusalem was reported by Jerusalem radio, which noted that nearly all those invited attended the meeting, despite calls for a boycott and a death threat from terrorist leader Sabri al-Banna, alias Abu Nidal. *Al-Fajr* editor Hanna Sinyurah told the radio after the meeting that the major difference between the Palestinian and U.S. position is still the question of Palestinian self-determination and representation, noting that the Palestinian side asked for a statement from the United States on self-determination. Bush was "very attentive" and said the U.S. Administration is doing all it can to promote the peace process, but the Palestinians told him that this is not enough, Sinyurah disclosed.

On U.S.-Israeli relations, Jerusalem radio broadcast Israeli Deputy Prime Minister David Levi's remark urging Bush to work toward purifying the atmosphere and dispelling the clouds and suspicions which have caused damage.

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian aircraft hit Iraqi industrial installations near Al-Sulaymaniyah, and a bridge west of Irbil, according to a military communique cited by IRNA. Confirming the raids, an Iraqi communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio said three Iranian aircraft hit residential targets and caused civilian casualties. In other action, Iranian troops killed more than 100 Iraqis in the Hawr al-Hawizah the night of 28-29 July, Tehran radio reported.

Kuwait

The prime minister outlined the new government's action program in an address to the nation carried by Kuwait radio and television. The safeguarding of internal security will be the government's top priority in the future, he said, and Kuwait will show no leniency in matters affecting the country's security and the safety of its citizens. On foreign policy, he said the strengthening of Kuwait's role as a member of the GCC in Arab and international affairs will remain a principal objective of the new government.

OPEC

OPEC oil ministers continued their talks in Geneva, according to OPECNA, whose sources said the 29 July evening session was "positive." The 15-minute session was adjourned so that the Indonesian minister could continue his consultations with other delegations to determine the size of voluntary production cuts each member-country is prepared to make, KUNA reported. Member-countries offered cuts of up to 1.5 million bbl/day, the agency continued. Meanwhile, a 7-point program submitted by Algeria proposed accepting the current production ceiling of 17.6 million bbl/day as a basis for negotiating new output quotas, or reducing the production ceiling to 15-16 million bbl/day using previous national quotas, the agency added. The Iranian oil minister said his country is ready to lower production to a level that assures an increase in the price of oil, IRNA reported.

DRA

In a speech carried by Kabul radio, PDPA General Secretary Najibullah said the Afghan people greet Mikhail Gorbachev's recent proposal on a partial Soviet troop withdrawal from the DRA with profound understanding. The DRA believes Gorbachev's proposal will have a positive effect on the upcoming talks in Geneva with Pakistan, Najibullah continued. The withdrawal is only a first step, he said, adding that further moves depend entirely on the United States, Pakistan, Iran, and other countries.

A Tehran radio commentary on the Gorbachev proposal said it cannot be viewed as a major change in the Kremlin's position.

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Najibullah Speech on Proposed Soviet Troop Reduction

LD292309 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 29 Jul 86

[Speech by Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, on 29 July — place not specified; recorded]

[Text] Dear compatriots, friends, dear comrades, brothers and sisters, fathers and mothers. I address you on behalf of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and the DRA Revolutionary Council.

Our heroic people — workers, peasants, intellectuals, clergy, tradesmen, and private investors, personnel of the Armed Forces, women and youth, with profound understanding, are welcoming the speech of M.S. Gorbachev, CPSU Central Committee general secretary, in Vladivostok, concerning partial reduction and return of units and companies of the Soviet forces to their homeland.

This action, which is being taken by our friends in agreement with the DRA Government, is a vivid testimony to another earnest endeavor of the DRA and USSR toward the urgently needed solution to the events around Afghanistan and the reduction of tension in the region.

This important step, which is taken by Afghanistan and the Soviet Union during the International Year of Peace, demonstrates the peaceful policy of the DRA that was reflected in the announcements of April 1980 and August 1981, and it also explains the loyalty of the Soviet Union to the policy of disarmament and reduction of tension — consolidated and explained by the 27th CPSU Congress. This is a clear answer to all conspiracies and intrigues. The USSR has no other aims in Afghanistan but to give international assistance to our young republic in repulsing outside aggression. We make no secret of the fact that this good-will gesture has become possible as a result of all-round consolidation of the national sovereignty, power, and ability of the DRA Armed Forces and the increasing support for the policy of the PDPA and the DRA Government by the people of Afghanistan. The way to this decision was long and difficult.

We have felt the happiness and victories of the consolidation of the new and just social system in our ancient land where the religion, traditions, and customs of our ancestors are being safeguarded in a sacred manner. However, we feel great pain because blood is being shed, because a great number of our compatriots who suffer from poverty and illiteracy cannot perceive that the truth of their life is hidden in the new national sovereignty which is being brought about by the April Revolution. Many have fallen prey to imperialist propaganda and fight against the sovereignty of the people who want to save them from unemployment, poverty, and social injustice.

When the forces of imperialism and regional reaction were being organized against us and when the counterrevolutionaries stood against us with the assistance and material support of the West, our internationalist brothers — the Soviet troops — came to our aid on the basis of lofty international principles and in accordance with our legal request.

Repelling the aggression and intervention of imperialism in Afghanistan became possible as a result of all-round and resolute assistance of the Soviet Union and, as a result, today we have a free and independent Afghanistan with territorial integrity and national sovereignty. Those who attach value to the destiny of the homeland must know that if the limited units of the Soviet Union had not come to the assistance of our people, the enemies of the people would have torn Afghanistan to pieces. Our people understood very well that the great Soviet Union is, was, and will be our friend.

The Afghan people welcome from the bottom of their hearts yesterday's words of M.S. Gorbachev concerning this point: All those who are encouraging and financing the undeclared war against Afghanistan and those from whose territory this war is being promoted must know that, if aggression against Democratic Afghanistan continues, the Soviet Union will not leave its neighbor alone in sorrow and pain.

True sons follows the path of their fathers. The friendship recommended by our ancestors and founded by the initiative of Lenin, and the vision and prudence of Amanollah Khan, has become even more profound and firm. This friendship turned to brotherhood, to spiritual brotherhood, combat brotherhood, sympathetic brotherhood, and brotherhood in weapons and struggle. This brotherhood has turned into internationalism in action and patriotism in action.

All the generations of Afghanistan's people — the families and the credible chiefs — today, from the depths of their hearts, express their sincere gratitude and unlimited thanks to the Soviet leadership, the heroic working class, the peasants and the intellectuals of the Soviet Union, and its courageous Armed Forces for the accomplishments of the brave troops and the Soviet people in our ancient land.

Our people express love and throw [words indistinct] and flowers to each international soldier who returns to his homeland. We, as a closely-knit group of human beings, say to him: May your supper always be warm and your drinking water cool.

Our people have a powerful memory; the Afghan people will pass on their sacred gratitude to the Soviet men and officers and to the Soviet people, from century to century, from one generation to another. The people of Afghanistan love their homeland.

We expect that this initiative of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union will be welcomed favorably in the world both among our friends and also among those who are not yet in agreement with us about our domestic and foreign policy. We expect our opponents to reply favorably to this good-will gesture and to prove in practice their interest in a solution to the so-called Afghanistan issue. My aim is to acheive a speedier end to all foreign intervention in the internal affairs of the DRA, to the export of counterrevolutionary bands to our country, to equipping them with the most modern weapons for carrying out subversive activities against the national and democratic sovereignty.

We are confident that these measures that we have taken will be a convincing reply to the dirty and unbridled anti-Soviet and anti-Afghan propaganda which is increasingly being fanned by

imperialism and regional reaction. Let humanity see who genuinely endeavors to achieve a political solution, who fans tension, and who pours oil on the flames of war.

Those who are not able to suggest to the people of the world, including the Afghans, a peaceful alternative are inspiring militarist hysteria in their vain desire to halt historic advancement. However, it will never turn out like this.

We believe that a reduction of the Soviet forces in the DRA will have a positive effect on the coming talks in Geneva where our previous partner to the talks will have the possiblity of expressing his goodwill.

Afghans have had and continue to have respect and feelings of friendship for the people of Pakistan.

Naturally, we are talking about the first move. Whether, following this, there will be a second or a third move depends entirely on the actions of the United States, Pakistan, Iran, and other countries who have imposed an undeclared war on Afghanistan. The stage-by-stage return of the Soviet forces will begin only in the event of complete cessation of intervention in the internal affairs of the DRA and the guarantee of their nonrepetition, and the signing of documents which will form the basis for a political solution. We will be firm in this task.

In speaking about the partial reduction of the limited units of the Soviet Union, today I invite you, dear compatriots, for even further organization around the PDPA and the revolutionary sovereignty. The party and the government will follow more relentlessly the policy of national reconciliation, broadening the social pillars of the national and democratic April Revolution — as far as creating a government with the participation of political forces who are stationed outside the country but who are prepared to take a sincere part in the nationwide national process of the construction of a new Afghanistan.

National unity and a common interest in the freedom and territorial integrity of our beloved Afghanistan are alone a guarantee for our ability to remove successfully the barriers from our path and achieve the final goal; [words indistinct] to make our people prosperous and for the flourishing of our homeland.

Mercenary killers and counterrevolutionaries: Move away from our path before it is too late! Your black names have attracted the hatred of our people. With our modern weapons we cannot be put into a state of fear; with fighting, our faith in victory cannot be shaken!

To the compatriots who are far away from the homeland: The gate to the bosom of the homeland is always open before you. The mountains and rivers of the homeland, the fireplaces and hearths — which are not yet cold — are waiting for you; the fatherland is waiting for you. We are firm, standing on our own feet and relying on our ability; we have faith and a firm belief in the defense of the revolution. In perception of fraternal support and relying on the infallible patriotic unity, we forge ahead.

Our friendship with the Soviet Union is eternal! We will be victorious!

Western Diplomats Report New Soviet Offensives

BK291207 Hong Kong AFP in English 1156 GMT 29 Jul 86

[Text] Islamabad, July 29 (AFP) — Soviet troops, backing Afghan armed forces, have mounted fresh anti-mujahidin offensives in south and south western Afghanistan resulting in heavy civilian casualties, Western diplomats said in Islamabad Tuesday.

The diplomats, quoting reliable Western sources, said heavy fighting took place in the southern Logar Valley where the Soviets, introducing "new tanks", attacked Moslem guerrilla bases.

A two hour gun-battle last Tuesday heralded the latest offensive in the area located on the muja'.din route from the east to the north of Afghanistan. The following day a 75-vehicle mixed Soviet-Afghan convoy left Kabul to the accompaniment of unprecedented air activity over the capital.

But the guerrillas intercepted the convoy at the provincial capital of Pol-e 'Alam, according to the diplomats who said the mujahidin destroyed four or five tanks as well as damaging or destroying a number of other military vehicles "forcing the convoy to retreat".

The guerrillas in a retaliatory rocket attack on Kuh-e Safi Sang crippled four military vehicles and also succeeded in capturing up to ten Soviet troops alive, provoking Soviet bombing raids which left 20 civilians dead.

According to rebel sources nine members of the same family were killed in the Soviet air raids in the Barki Rayh Bazar sector of the Logar Valley while more than 30 passengers died when their bus was hit in the Altamur Dasht area of the valley.

Western diplomats noted heavier than usual air traffic in Kabul last week. About 29 Soviet-built jets were counted at different times last Friday heading southwards and later returning to Bagram base. These sorties followed unprecedented helicopter movement towards the south with about 30 machines taking part.

Diplomats believed that the heavy aircraft activity was directed towards Qandahar, Ghazni and Zabol Provinces where fighting has continued for the past several weeks.

According to Western diplomats the Soviets have fielded a new tank still unidentified in the six-year-old war with the rebels. They believe it is the improved version of T-72 Russian tanks.

The report follows Monday's announcement by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev that six Soviet regiments will be withdrawn from Afghanistan by the end of this year.

According to reports reaching diplomats which could not be confirmed immediately, the mujahidin were once again in control of Qandahar city where shooting could be heard all day.

The Soviets were now said to control only the airport and their grip on Herat-Qandahar road was also said to be weakened.

Despite a "difficult" situation, the mujahidin were said to have "virtual access to all places" in the city.

Other reports said the Indian Consulate in Qandahar was under a seige with diplomats holed up inside and unable to venture out. The local population was reportedly cooperating with the mujahidin.

In nearby Ghazni guerrillas ambushed a convoy killing a number of soldiers while a five-hour battle in Zabol killed or wounded more than 100 Afghan soldiers, the diplomatic sources said.

Pakistani Allegations of Armed Attacks 'Refuted'
LD300603 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 30 Jul 86

[Text] Kabul July 29, *Bakhtar*: The charge d'affaires of the Embassy of Pakistan in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the DRA and the following was conveyed to him.

The Pakistani Government has once again spread the insinuation as if the Armed Forces of the DRA have attacked the region of Shalman of Khyber Agency and suburbs of Mohmand Agency on July 2 and 12, 1986.

The Government of the DRA after thorough investigation, regards the allegations groundless and devoid of facts and categorically refutes them.

The Government of the DRA points out that the Pakistani authorities stop such slanders which only result in the aggravation of the situation in the frontiers.

'Counterrevolutionary Elements' Crushed in Qandahar
LD282034 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 28 Jul 86

[Text] As a result of successful operations by the country's Armed Forces carried out in the vicinity of Qandahar Province, a number of counterrevolutionary elements were crushed.

A recoilless gun, two DShK's, and an enemy fortification were destroyed. Some 15,000 assorted shells, 25 mortar mines, and 24 antitank mines were also seized from these criminals by the Armed Forces.

New Lao Envoy Presents Credentials, Meets Leaders
BK291136 Vientiane KPL in English 0903 GMT 29 Jul 86

[Text] Vientiane, July 29 (KPL) — Thongsavat Khaikhamphithoun, on July 24, presented his credentials to Babrak Karmal, president of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, in Kabul. T. Khaikhamphithoun was accredited as ambassador of the LPDR to the DRA, with a residence in Moscow.

During the presentation of credentials, the two sides expressed satisfaction over the bilateral relations. They also briefed each other about the revolutionary tasks and foreign policy their respective countries.

Following his credentials presentation, the Lao ambassador additionally paid a courtesy visit to General Secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee, Najibulah, and others. At a meeting, the two sides spoke of issues of mutual interest.

Pakistan Border To Be Sealed; Violence in Punjab

BK291640 Hong Kong AFP in English 1626 GMT 29 Jul 86

[Text] New Delhi, July 29 (AFP) — India is to seal its border with Pakistan as part of the drive to curb separatist Sikh activities in the northwestern border state of Punjab, officials said Tuesday. The government plans to declare the entire western border with Pakistan, from Kashmir in the extreme northwest to Gujarat State in the southwest a "protected area," the officials added.

No details were immediately available as to how the scheme would operate, but normally in such cases nobody would be allowed to enter the area without official permission.

The government had initially planned to amend the constitution to assume the powers to declare part or all of the border a protected area. But Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi agreed during talks with representatives of various opposition parties here Tuesday that this could be done through adoption of a resolution by parliament's upper house on a year-to-year basis under existing constitutional provisions. Mr. Gandhi told the opposition leaders the move was aimed at dealing with a specific situation that had arisen in the wake of the separatist activities in Punjab, the officials said.

Four members of a Hindu family were hacked to death by unknown attackers in Punjab's Ferozepur District on the border with Pakistan Tuesday, the *Press Trust of India* said, quoting a government spokesman in Chandigarh, Punjab's capital.

Two gunshots were heard inside the Golden Temple in Amritsar, Sikhism's holiest shrine Tuesday, PTI said, and shortly afterwards the Temple Management Committee handed two unidentified youths to police, a separate PTI dispatch said. It quoted police as saying that nobody was hurt in the shooting.

Tuesday's incidents followed a clash between the task force, set up to protect the temple, and a group of Sikh militants Monday, in which at least six people were injured.

3 'Miscreants' on Killed Pakistan Border

BK300311 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Jul 86

[Text] Three miscreants coming from Pakistan were killed in an encounter with the BSF [Border Security Force] on the Indo-Pak border yesterday. According to reports reaching New Delhi, a BSF party observed four persons entering the Indian territory. One of them started firing and the BSF jawans [soldiers] returned the fire, resulting in the death of three miscreants, while the fourth managed to escape.

Pakistan Requested To Release Detainees

BK290918 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 29 Jul 86

[Text] Pakistan has assured India that it will check up with its jail records to find out the discrepancy in the number of Indians imprisoned in that country. The Rajya Sabha was informed today that according to Pakistan authorities there were 344 Indians in Pakistan jails until August last year. This does not include any defense personnel. However, according to the list given to Pakistan, 942 Indian prisoners are undergoing various jail terms in that country. Of them, 43 are defense personnel.

Answering supplementaries, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Eduardo Faleiro, said the charges against most are that they are without valid travel documents. Mr Faleiro said after talks at various levels 124 Indian prisoners in Multan jail were provided consular access. The Pakistan Government has been requested to release all Indian detainees, particularly those completing their sentences.

Further Reportage on State Visit of SFRY's Mikulic

Gandhi, Mikulic Banquet Speeches

BK290342 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Jul 86

[Text] India and Yugoslavia have called for an effective action by the Nonaligned Movement at the Harare summit in September to promote world security and stability. Speaking at a banquet hosted by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in honor of the visiting Yugoslav prime minister, Mr Branko Mikulic, in New Delhi last night, both the leaders expressed concern over the global tensions and growing threat from the nuclear arms race. They underlined the importance of the Nonaligned Movement in today's world divided by bloc rivalries and attempts by the developed nations to impose one-sided solutions to the economic problems of the developing countries. They also urged the fellow members of the movements to strengthen collective self-reliance to insulate themselves from outside pressure.

Referring to South Africa, Mr Gandhi said India will not rest until apartheid is ended in that country. Those who have abetted the Pretoria regime and opposed sanctions are being condemned by their own people. Mr Gandhi said the chairmanship of the Nonaligned Movement will soon be passed on to Zimbabwe which is located in the very heart of a major arena of nonaligned countries (?who) work for freedom, equality and progress. The prime minister said the people of Namibia who are fighting for independence are fighting the battle of all of us.

The Yugoslav prime minister praised India's leadership of the Nonaligned Movement. He said it grew stronger and became even more aware of its own power under the circumstances imposed by the present international situation.

Shankar Urges Worldwide Sanctions Against RSA

BK281449 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1442 GMT 28 Jul 86

[Text] External Affairs Minister Shiv Shankar has expressed hope that India will succeed in persuading all nations of world that sanctions against racist regime of south africa are imperative and urgent. He was making statement in Lok Sabha on 28 July.

Shiv Shankar said India's opposition to apartheid, her belief in imperative of mandatory comprehensive sanctions against South Africa to pressurise it to dismantle system, and her support for people of South Africa is consistent, steadfast and unwavering.

He pointed out that mini Commonwealth summit being held in London from Sunday next will discuss report of Eminent Persons Group. It is therefore inevitable that question of application of further measures and sanctions against South Africa will come up there. This group visited South Africa and a number of Frontline States and submitted unanimous report last month. It admitted failure to initiate process of dialogue and concluded that Pretoria regime is not genuinely interested in dismantling system of apartheid.

Shiv Shankar told House that after publication of its report public opinion all over world has become convinced that stronger measures against South Africa are only peaceful alternative to violence there.

Further Reportage on Situation in Punjab, New Delhi

Home Minister Appeals to Opposition

BK291627 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Jul 86

[Text] The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, called upon the opposition to cooperate with the government in fighting the forces of disintegration, communalism, and antinational elements. He was replying to a special debate on the Punjab situation in the Lok Sabha today.

Referring to the Mukhtsar tragedy, Mr Buta Singh said that what is happening in Punjab is not a law and order problem but has deeper ramifications affecting the unity and integrity of the country. The minister said that the recent killing at Mukhtsar has sent a wave of fear and reaction not only in Punjab, but also in other parts of the country. Its fallout was felt in certain parts of Delhi. But the government took swift action to control the situation. He also criticized some political parties' decision to call for a bundh [strike].

The home minister criticized the breakaway Akali Dal leaders — Mr Prakash Singh Badal and Mr G.S. Tohra — for openly colluding with the extremists and terrorists. He said every incident that happens in Punjab follows their statements like a ripple. Wherever a terrorist was killed, these leaders visited their houses and went to the extent of declaring them martyrs. They are under the impression that one who takes the most extreme posture will become the popular leader of the community. He said that their collusion with the extremists and terrorists is aggravating the situation in Punjab.

Pointing out that the government's efforts to restore peace in the state have met with limited success, Mr Buta Singh called upon all the political parties to come together to find an amicable solution to the problem. Mr Buta Singh told the house that in spite of the center's best intentions, some problems have cropped up in the implementation of the Punjab accord. Dates had to be shifted several times; every time, it was done at the initiative of the Punjab chief minister. Now we are trying to solve the problem through mutual consultations. Mr Buta Singh hoped that an agreed solution will be found.

69 Persons Detained in New Delhi

BK290854 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 29 Jul 86

[Text] No incident was reported from any part of Delhi since this morning. The curfew was relaxed for 2 hours in all curfew-bound areas except Hauz Kazi police station area in the walled city. According to a Delhi police spokesman, no incident was reported during the relaxation period. Intensive patrolling is, however, continuing as a precautionary step. Sixty-nine more persons were detained in different parts of the city last night.

Police Raid Office in Golden Temple

BK300848 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 30 Jul 86

[Text] In Punjab, police raided the head office of the All India Sikh Students Federation [AISSF]-Kahlon group — in the Golden Temple complex last night to apprehend some AISSF terrorists. Agency reports say some incriminating documents and records have been recovered from them.

Permanent Status for Paramilitary Forces

BK291629 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Jul 86

[Text] The Punjab government proposes to deploy paramilitary forces on a permanent basis in the Mand area of Amritsar and Ferozepore. The measure is to ensure that terrorists and other antisocial elements are not able to take shelter in the area. The state chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, said that more companies of paramilitary forces have been requisitioned from the Center for the purpose. He was presiding over a meeting of the subcommittee of the state Communal Harmony and National Integration Council in Chandigarh today. Mr Barnala also informed the meeting of the steps taken to curb terrorism in the state.

In Punjab, 1½ hour curfew relaxation was given in Mukhtsar town for the first time in 5 days. Today's relation, which began at 1600 [1030 GMT] was only for women. No untoward incident was reported during the relaxation. The director general of Punjab police, Mr Rebeiro, has said that there is considerable progress in the Mukhtsar investigation.

Further Reportage on Gurkha Strike in West Bengal

Situation 'Quiet But Tense'

BK291621 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Jul 86

[Text] Normal life in Darjeeling, Kurseong, and Kalimpong towns in West Bengal continued to be disrupted as the 108-hour

long bundh [strike] call given by the Gurkha National Liberation Front continued. According to the state director general of police, no untoward incident has been reported from anywhere.

The situation is quiet but tense. Army and paramilitary forces are keeping a vigil in sensitive areas, including the hill roads.

Curfew Relaxed; Patrols Continue

BK300346 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Jul 86

[Text] The curfew is being relaxed in Kalimpong town in Darjeeling District for 2 hours from 0900 this morning. The sub divisional officer, Kalimpong, told our correspondent that the situation in the town, though tense, is under control.

The Army and paramilitary forces are patrolling the sensitive areas.

The director general of West Bengal police is holding a meeting with senior civil and police officials at Kurseong today to review the situation in the three subdivisions of Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Kurseong.

No untoward incident has been reported from any part of the district so far.

'Major' Soviet-Afghan Offensive Near Kabul Reported

BK300643 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 30 Jul 86

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say that Soviet-Kabul forces have launched a major offensive against the mujahidin near Kabul.

According to diplomatic sources, there is a remarkable increase in aerial activity near Kabul and many helicopters (?squadrons) are flying toward the southwest every day. Jet aircraft also fly in this direction and return about an hour later.

Diplomats say that a military convoy, which left for Paktia Province on Wednesday [23 July] had to retreat due to a surprise attack by the mujahidin. In this attack, four or five tanks or armored personnel carriers were damaged.

Soviet Arms Seized; Afghan Saboteurs Arrested

NC292058 Paris AFP in English 2050 GMT 29 Jul 86

[Text] Islamabad, July 29 (AFP) — Pakistani border police Tuesday seized a "huge quantity" of Soviet-made arms and arrested a dozen suspected Afghan-trained saboteurs, officials said.

The haul, which included Kalashnikov assault rifles, rocket launchers, time bombs, hand grenades and plastic mines, was seized shortly after the alleged saboteurs crossed from Afghanistan into Chaman town, in Pakistan's Baluchistan border region, they said.

Several people were reported arrested in the northwestern Pakistani town of Peshawar Monday, as security was stepped up after a series of nationwide explosions allegedly caused by Afghan agents.

Mujahidin Operations in Various Provinces Detailed

BK280344 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 Jul 86

[Text] Reports have come in about intensified fighting between mujahidin and the Soviet-Kabul administration in various parts of Afghanistan. There was fierce fighting in Qandahar, Wardak, Kabul, Paktia and other areas in which mujahidin inflicted heavy casualties to the Kabul administration's forces which are supported by the Soviet Union.

Mujahidin attacked a military post of communist forces in Panjwai in Qandahar Province and killed at least 14 Soviet-Kabul soldiers. Besides, the mujahidin also seized a large quantity of arms.

In another operation, mujahidin damaged a military jeep of the communist forces in Qandahar.

Reports from Takhar and Parwan Provinces say that the mujahidin have intensified their activities against the Soviet-Kabul forces recently.

Karachi Commentary Criticizes Soviets in Afghanistan

BK251010 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 24 Jul 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] Speaking before members of the Foreign Policy Association in New York last Tuesday [22 July], Pakistan's prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, pointed out that Soviet intervention in Afghanistan constituted a most flagrant violation of the principles of international law and justice.

Mr Junejo, underlining Pakistan's attitude, said we could not remain indifferent to Soviet attempt to impose an alien rule on Afghan people with whom Pakistanis shared age-old ties of faith, culture and kinship.

The prime minister said the problem has been further compounded by the influx of 3 million Afghan refugees who came to seek shelter on Pakistani soil. These unfortunate refugees, Mr Junejo said, were forced to seek shelter in Pakistan to escape massive repression at home. Mr Junejo said it should be clear to all that the freedom-loving Afghan people would not be enslaved even after nearly 7 years of occupation, brutal repression, and inhuman war.

On the face of it, the Pakistani leader said even the Soviets agreed to the need for a political settlement of the Afghan crisis. But Mr Junejo regrettably pointed out that the situation on the ground was somewhat different. The difference lay in the intensification of war against mujahidin by the Soviet-Afghan regime forces [who] resort to massive punitive strikes against towns and villages and [cause] large-scale civilian casualties.

Mr Junejo noted that last year witnessed sharp escalation of artillery shelling and aerial bombing of Afghan refugee camps and villages inside Pakistan. Hawkish posturings of Kabul regime have become all the more a matter of concern, as it has meant more frequent violations of Pakistan's airspace and territory by Afghan Armed Forces.

Pakistan has not opted an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth policy vis-a-vis Kabul aggression simply because it does not want to escalate tensions in the region and believes in peace and amity with all its neighbors. Pakistan also does not want to add to the difficulties of already suffering Afghan brethren by retaliating against all Kabul raids. This restraint is geared to finding a peaceful solution of the Afghan problem so that the injustice done to the Afghan people could be undone and millions of Afghan refugees from Pakistan and elsewhere were enabled to return to their beloved hearths and homes in safety and honor.

The injustice done to the brave Afghan people has been of colossal magnitude. With the armed intervention of a superpower in broad daylight in this 20th century, the freedom of the Afghans has been usurped and negated. Law and justice demand that the freedom of the Afghans is restored, the sooner the better. This is of crucial importance.

Already over a million Afghans have been slaughtered at the altar of a foreign-imposed war. Over 4½ million Afghans have

been rendered into helpless refugees. Some 2 million people have been made internal refugees as their homes were burnt into nothingness and they were forced to migrate to cities like Kabul and Qandahar. It is a tragedy the like of which has not been seen in modern times anywhere else in the world. Naturally, the world conscience revolted at the gory dimensions of this tragedy.

The overwhelming majority of world nations has condemned Soviet intervention and occupation of Afghanistan. World bodies like the United Nations, the NAM [Nonaligned Movement], and ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] have joined worldwide protests and demanded withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan and the restoration of the independent, nonaligned and Islamic character of Afghanistan. To this end the world organizations and international public opinion have supported Pakistan's search for a politically negotiated settlement of the Afghanistan problem as there seems to be no military solution.

The Soviets have failed after over 6 years of intense warfare to clinch a military solution in the rugged terrain of Afghanistan. The only honorable way out is a political solution.

Much has been done for this political solution through the UN secretary general's efforts. The UN mediator, Mr Diego Cordovez, has untiringly worked in arranging the indirect talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan in Geneva. Already three instruments of the politically-negotiated package deal on Afghanistan have been finalized. What remains is the fourth instrument relating to the Soviet withdrawal and its relationship with the other three instruments.

Where there is a will there is a way. If there is a genuine will on the part of Soviets to withdraw from Afghanistan, the Geneva platform prepared by the UN provides the best way. The sticking point is the timeframe for withdrawal. Soviet and Kabul sides talk of 4 years. That is a pretty long schedule. Pakistan says withdrawal should be matter of months and not years. Four months should be enough for this purpose.

It is high time that the will to restore peace in southwest Asia is turned into action and the Afghan issue is solved in order to make the world a better place for humanity.

Foreign Minister Arrives in Geneva for Afghan Talks

BK291036 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 29 Jul 86

[Text] The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, arrived in Geneva today to represent Pakistan at the next round of U.N.-sponsored proximity talks on Afghanistan beginning tomorrow.

These talks are the continuation of the seventh round of negotiations held during May last.

BANGLADESH

President Returns From Regional Tour 28 July

BK290200 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 29 Jul 86

[Text] President Ershad returned to Dhaka from Islamabad last night at the end of his week-long visit to the Maldives, Sri Lanka and Pakistan. Begum Raushan Ershad, who accompanied the president, also returned with him. The presidential entourage included Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury, Finance Adviser M. Syeduzzaman and Deputy Minister for Education Seyauddin Ahmed.

With the return from Pakistan, the president completed his visit to six member states of the SARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] as the chairman of the 7-nation organization. He earlier visited Bhutan, Nepal and India. On his arrival at Zia International Airport the president was received by the DCMLA's [Deputy Chief Martial Law Administrators], the prime minister, Cabinet ministers, diplomats, and high civil and military officials.

SRI LANKA

Further Reportage on Steps To Resolve 'Ethnic Problem'

President: Solution Within 2 Months

BK300338 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Jul 86

[Text] The Sri Lankan president, Mr Jayewardene, has expressed the hope that the island's ethnic problem can be solved within 2 months without holding a referendum or a general election. Addressing bank employees in Colombo yesterday, he said it is necessary to solve the issue through peaceful means, as a military solution will cause extensive damage to human lives in the northern and eastern provinces.

Regarding the setting up of the proposed provincial councils, Mr Jayewardene said this will be done by amalgamating several districts. This will not mean the division of the country, he said.

Meanwhile, the Sri Lankan national security minister, Mr Athulathmudali has said his government believes that the ethnic problem cannot be solved without sharing power. The rights of a country's minorities cannot be ignored. He said the proposed provincial councils seek to deal with this while distributing executive and legislative powers among the people of the country. Mr Athulathmudali was speaking at a seminar in Colombo.

The Indian High Commissioner in Sri Lanka, Mr Dixit, called on President Jayewardene on Monday before leaving for New Delhi for consultations. He is carrying certain formulations and elucidations on the latest package of proposals.

Security Minister Urges Political Solution

BK291133 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 29 Jul 86

[Text] The minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, has stated that it is the belief of the government that the present ethnic problem cannot be solved without sharing power. The rights of the national minority cannot be ignored. The present constitutional structure has been under strain and is being criticized. The minister stressed that constitutional reform is needed in order to solve the ethnic crisis. The provincial councils seek to remove this problem by disbursing legislative and executive power among the people of this country.

The minister was speaking at a seminar on devolution of power through provincial councils as a basis for a political solution at the professional center in Colombo last evening.

Mr Athulathmudali further said the provincial councils will satisfy the aspirations of all communities in the country and does not attempt to balance off the interests of the communities. The minister pointed out that there are some groups who still believe in a military solution to the ethnic problem.

Government Considering Request for Cuban Doctors

BK261121 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 26 Jul 86

[Text] The government is now considering getting down Cuban doctors to overcome current shortage of medical personnel. This was disclosed by the minister of health at a meeting held at the Cuba-Sri Lanka Friendship Association yesterday. He said that during a recent visit to Cuba, he was able to see for himself the high standard achieved by Sri Lankan medical students in that country.

Prime Minister Addresses War Martyrs Rally in Arak

LD291732 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Jul 86

[Text] Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi, accompanied by a delegation to a rally honoring the martyrs who fell during the recent bombing carried out by the Iraqi Zionist regime, arrived and was welcomed by local officials in Arak this afternoon.

According to a Central News Unit report from Arak, Mir Hoseyn Musavi, after inspecting the city's destroyed industrial quarters, met injured workers in the hospitals and, according to this report, in order to participate in the rally honoring the martyrs of the recent incident, the prime minister left for Arak's Beyt ol-Moqaddas open-air prayer site where the rally was held.

In a speech to the commemorative rally condoling the families of the martyrs and denouncing this barbarous deed by the Ba'thist criminals, the prime minister said: Just as the Islamic forces have administered a crushing rebuff to the Iraqi Ba'thist regime thus far, the Islamic forces shall once again deliver a crushing retaliatory blow to Saddam and his supporters!

Musavi Welcomes Returning 'Skilled' Nationals

LD262244 Tehran IRNA in English 1850 GMT 26 Jul 86

[Text] Tehran, July 26, IRNA — Iran welcomes the return home of skilled Iranians interested in serving the Islamic Revolution and the country, Premier Hoseyn Musavi said here Saturday. Musavi also said that the government has worked hand-in-hand with the creative people, especially the youth to foil the plots of the superpowers. The premier made the remarks to a group of Iranian students studying overseas who are here on a visit.

Musavi said that as a result of the government's policy of promotion a healthy academic environment more domestically trained technicians are now entering the labor force. "Scientific and research issues of the country are blooming", the premier said.

Musavi attributed the growth to a sense of national pride to Iranian students. He said the Iranian students are the future masters of the country now that foreign advisors have been expelled.

Minister of Culture and Higher Education Mohammad Farhadi also attended the meeting.

Majlis Speaker Addresses IRGC Airborne Brigade

LD261224 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Jul 86

[Text] The ceremonies marking the end of the first military training course of the deputies of the Islamic Consultative Assembly and the first general training course of the Special Airborne Brigade of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] were staged this morning in the presence of Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the representative of the imam to the Supreme Defense Council and speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, in the training center of Khatam ol-Anbiya'.

According to our reporter at these ceremonies, in which a group of commanders from the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps also participated, the deputy commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, in the course of his remarks referring to the importance of the formation of the Special Airborne Brigade in this revolutionary foundation, stated:

Among the notable characteristics of the combatants in this brigade are their flexibility and speed of action alongside their faith and earnestness; and the Special Airborne Brigade has been assigned to gather knowledge about guerrilla operations from all over the world and, by drawing on past experiences, to carry out guerrilla operations inside Iraqi territory and alongside the combatants of Islam.

Then Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the representative of the imam to the Supreme Defense Council, stressing the point that every military unit needs highly mobile and energetic forces and considering the establishment of the Special Airborne Brigade in the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps to be valuable, stated:

This brigade will be operating in the most sensitive regions of enemy territory where the enemy tends to inflict its heaviest blows, and the members of this brigade consider the operational theater as a bridge leading toward paradise and as eternal blessings and meeting with the Almighty. But the strength of this brigade differs a lot from other airborne brigades.

The representative of the imam to the Supreme Defense Council stressed: If a group of these combatants were to land from the air in certain places, they could be as successful as a division; and under circumstances whereby routing the Iraqis could be accelerated, possession of such a well-equipped, effective and religiously committed brigade is vital.

The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, referring to the point that today, the donations and preparedness of the people and the youth of our country has multiplied and in Iraq the complete opposite situation prevails, then stated:

At present Saddam's army is plunging down from the height that it built for itself; every day that passes in the region, it plunges down even further towards defeat. He stressed: The Saddam regime, from the standpoint of finances, the equipment of its forces, its engineering units and its personnel, is in a very shaky state. And Iraqi commanders who have been captured on the battlefronts, have confessed that when a unit moves towards a front, it loses a great many of its troops in various ways, such as desertion, opposition and malingering.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani -- referring to the point that the presence of the deputies of the Islamic Consultative Assembly and officials and known personalities of the country among the combatants of Islam and on the battlefronts demonstrates that the war is being given special importance and priority -- stated:

The unity and collaboration of people and officials on the battlefronts and behind the battlefronts, together with the Guards

Corps, the Army, and the volunteer forces, heralds the fact that we must meet with victory in this holy theater of war in which we have placed our combatants; and, God willing, the combatants of Islam will be offering the news of victory as a present to this self-sacrificing people.

Majlis Speaker: Iraqi Air Raids 'Forced' Retaliation

LD290723 Tehran IRNA in English 0720 GMT 29 Jul 86

[Text] Tehran, July 29, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here Tuesday that recent Iraqi attacks on Iranian cities and massacre of civilian people forced Iran to retaliate. Speaking at the Majlis session, Rafsanjani said that the Islamic Republic of Iran could curtail the hands of the aggressor only through retaliation. He added that recent Iraqi attacks on civilian areas under the pretext of hitting industrial centers and massacre of civilians in Sanadaj and Arak proved disrespect of the Baghdad rulers for humanistic values.

Rafsanjani who is also Imam Khomeyni's representative to the Supreme Defense Council, said that Muslim forces of Iran will fulfill their duties in retaliating the Iraqi attacks. However he regretted Iran's retaliatory measures would cause inconvenience for the Iraqi people. But, he stressed, the Iraqi regime should be held responsible for such an inconvenience since it is the Baghdad regime which always forces Iran to embark on these measures unwillingly.

He expressed condolences to the families of martyrs in Sanandaj and Arak, where many people were martyred in recent Iraqi air raids, and hoped that Muslim forces give an appropriate answer to these crimes in the battlefields.

Montazeri on Action Against Islamic Law Breakers

LD251734 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Jul 86

[Text] In a meeting with education officials from the Intelligence Ministry yesterday, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, praising them for welcoming their important and sensitive responsibilities instead of sitting in a corner and criticizing, quoted a proverb from the Holy Imam al-Rida — may peace be upon him — in the book *Turfah al-'Uqul*, who graciously said: The holy imam graciously commanded that man shall not attain piety unless he adopts three methods and three traditions. One of these traditions emanates from God Almighty, which is keeping the secret of the people; the second tradition stems from the prophet of God in behaving with moderation toward the people; and the third tradition comes from 'Ali — may peace be upon him — in fortitude toward difficulties and calamities.

The grand ayatollah graciously noted: The first tradition that comes from God Almighty concerns more than anyone else the responsible Intelligence Ministry officials. Our brothers should take care not to interfere in the people's thoughts, or personal or domestic affairs. They should only be concerned with matters of state security. Where there is a possibility of plots and counter-revolutionary movement they should act as far as necessary in order to inform (?government officials). But (?this does not mean) that they could place these secrets at the disposal of others or the public in general.

He graciously emphasized that in any event it is possible that certain individuals may have committed a sin or made some slip. In accordance with shari'a we have no right to reveal the secrets of individuals to others or to make secrets the subject of gossip. Such revelations and divulging the weaknesses of individuals in any form whatsoever is religiously forbidden and runs counter to shari'a. The people's secret should be safeguarded just as God Almighty does not divulge anyone's secrets. A pious man, too, should observe this divine tradition and should keep peoples' secrets.

In connection with the tradition of the prophet of God interpreted in the above narrative as practicing moderation with the people, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri graciously emphasized: The brothers may take note that the faith of all individuals among the people is not on the same level and that all individuals are not real [words indistinct]. One enjoys one degree of faith, another more, right up to the highest degree. Therefore, in accordance with this esteemed narrative, one must practice moderation with the people. Should one detect a blunder of sin of anyone in observing Islamic and humanitarian mores, according to Imam al-Rida — may peace be upon him — one should practice moderation with the people.

Some of these harsh actions embarked upon by certain responsible officials, albeit prompted by good intentions, produce the opposite effect among the people. They become pessimistic toward Islam, the revolution, and the position of the leader. This provides ammunition to the opposition and foreign radios which wait for such an opportunity in order to place blame on Islam, the revolution, and the leader in order to reach their sinister goals.

He graciously reminded: Suppose a certain act was observed as emanating from certain people and this was felt to go against the system. One should not behave vindictively toward such people. Action taken should go as far as is necessary. We should not do something that will produce the opposite effect and create renewed pessimism among other individuals. If, for instance, we consider one or two people responsible we should not bother others.

In connection with the harsh reactions taking place in many towns under the pretext of Hezbollahi fighting corruption, lack of purdah and other things, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri graciously said: Such actions, even though they may be prompted by good intentions, nevertheless pave the way for anarchy and weakening our society. Some of our friends are making a mistake. They imagine that by such actions a number of people will be provoked and carry out harsh and violent deeds, albeit with good intentions. The system would be strengthened and reprehensible deeds would be uprooted from society. This thinking is wrong. We should strengthen and consolidate the culture of Islam and revolution in society so that the general climate of society can move toward charity and goodness. Things will not be put right by force or by striking at individuals. By embarking on such action, reprehensible deeds would not be abolished nor would the

system be strengthened. It would only propel society toward anarchy and a weakened system.

I know that in a great many places corrupt and ill-intentioned individuals have misused such Hezbollahi events. Indeed, individuals from the Satanic party have placed themselves among the Hezbollahis and perpetrated other corrupt deeds contrary to shari'a; the notoriety associated with such deeds was placed at the door of Hezbollah, Islam, and revolution. At any rate, I believe that such methods of dealing with acts of corruption and deeds against religion are neither correct nor useful and should be prevented. However, in those instances when corrupt individuals are dealt with decisively and seriously, this action should emanate from the judiciary and other interested organs. There should not be any moderation or softness involved from them.

In the same connection, the Grand Ayatollah graciously emphasized: It is one of the decisive precepts of our law on directing others to do what is lawful and forbidding and what is unlawful that should this be translated from a verbal request, which is a public duty, into action against the reprehensible deed, then that would not be allowed without the permission of a shari'a judge -- that is, the Islamic government -- and would be tantamount to unilateral action.

U.S. Issues Warning on Interests in Persian Gulf

LD291211 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Jul 86

[Text] Following the recent remarks by Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the imam's representative to the Supreme Defense Council, the White House warned the Islamic Republic of Iran about threatening U.S. interests in the Persian Gulf.

According to news agencies, following the recent interview given by the imam's representative to the Supreme Defense Council — during which he stressed that Iran would respond vis-a-vis actions by Persian Gulf states who finance Iraq's purchase of weapons for hitting Iranian oil installations — Bernard Kalb, the U.S. State Department spokesman, emphasized yesterday, Monday, that any move against countries of the Persian Gulf region would be regarded as a major threat against U.S interests in the region. On the basis of this report, the Arab states of the Persian Gulf region have not yet shown any reaction toward the remarks of the White House spokesman on the U.S. interests in these countries.

IRNA Comments on U.S. Vice President's Mideast Tour

LD262241 Tehran IRNA in English 1820 GMT 26 Jul 86

[Text] London, July 26, IRNA — U.S. Vice President George Bush will arrive in occupied Palestine Sunday to start his 10-day tour of the Middle East which would also take him to Jordan and Egypt. Bush will spend four days in Israel for talks with Zionist leaders following Monday's meeting between Israeli Premier Shim'on Peres and Morocco's King Hassan, the first publicized top level Arab-Israeli meeting since the Camp David accord.

There is also wide-spread belief among Arabs here that the U.S. official is likely to have a secret meeting with a high-ranking Iraqi official to discuss increased American support for Baghdad amidst Iranian preparations for a major offensive.

An aide to U.S. Vice President Saturday confirmed that he may extend his tour to include a visit to Morocco. "It depends on whether or not it would be useful and that depends on our discussions with all three countries Israel, Jordan and Egypt" the aide said.

The Americans have stressed that the tour should not be seen as a new U.S. initiative to settle differences between Arab and Zionist regimes. "It is a visit not a mission" a Zionist regime official was quoted as saying. But observers say Bush would try to keep up the pace of reconciliation with the Zionist regime by preparing the grounds for the next Arab-Israeli summit, between Jordan's King Husayn and the Zionist leadership.

Western governments and their followers in the Middle East have been encouraged in seeing among Arabs only Syria, Libya and Algeria and factions of the Palestine Liberation Organization strongly condemning the meeting. But Friday's attack by thousands of Muslims on the Moroccan Embassy in Beirut has made the reactionary rulers more aware of the possibility of inciting popular anger among the Muslim masses by dealing with the occupiers of Palestine.

There is great speculation among Arab circles in London that the U.S. Vice President would conduct secret talks with a top Iraqi official, most likely in Jordan, on the latest developments in the war against the Islamic Republic. It is thought that because of Iran's massive preparations for a major offensive, following its spectacular successes in the Al-Faw peninsula in southern Iraq and Mehran in the central battle front, Iraqi officials are seeking greater U.S. military involvement in the conflict.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,547

LD291654 Tehran IRNA in English 1635 GMT 29 Jul 86

[Text] Tehran, July 29, IRNA — Iraqi industrial installations in western Al-Sulaymaniyah and a bridge connecting Mawsil to Irbil were heavily bombed by Iranian jet fighters at 0250 and 0255 hours GMT Tuesday, said a military communique here Tuesday.

Communique Number 2547 released by the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces said that the Iranian fighters after inflicting substantial damage and losses on the Iraqi installations as well as on the bridge returned to bases safely.

At least 15 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and eight light as well as heavy vehicles of the Iraqis destroyed in parts of the southern fronts Monday as enemy positions were shelled by Iranian Gendarmerie forces, the communique said.

In the western fronts, the communique said, several Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and five bunkers and two munitions

dumps of theirs destroyed in artillery duels with Iranian forces. In Qasr-e Shirin Iraqi engineering units incurred casualties and losses when they were hit by Iranian artillery fire over the same period. A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and one tank and one heavy vehicle of theirs destroyed in Marivan, western fronts, Monday under Iranian shelling, the communique said.

Exchange of artillery fire continued throughout the fronts Monday raging somewhat more heavily in southern fronts of Faqqeh, Shalacheh and Zayd as a result of which considerable casualties and losses were inflicted on Iraqi troops.

In Nahr-Anbar, the communique said, movement of Iraqi tanks were halted and elsewhere in Chazzabeh some enemy patrols attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions were forced to flee.

Iranian Muslim forces reconnoitered Iraqi positions and inflicted heavy casualties and losses on enemy troops in the northwestern fronts Monday, the communique said.

Artillery Attack on Iraqi Installations

LD291740 Tehran IRNA in English 1732 GMT 29 Jul 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., July 29, IRNA — Coastal artillery unit of Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) opened fire on Iraq's Al-'Umayyah jetty Monday night setting ablaze part of the installations. The shelling was in response to recent Iraqi war crimes. Smoke from the burning installations was seen Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Iraq's Al-Haratha power and petrochemical plant were shelled Monday and Tuesday. Parts of the installations were totally destroyed. Smoke from the burning industrial units can be seen from the border of Shalacheh, southern fronts.

Strategic brigade of Karmeh-Ali which connects Basra and Al-'Amarah Provinces, came under continuous Iranian shelling which prevented supplies from reaching Iraq's Third, Sixth, and Fourth Corps.

Mujahidin Spokesman Criticizes USSR Troop Reduction

LD291646 Tehran IRNA in English 1535 GMT 29 Jul 86

[Text] Tehran, July 29, IRNA — A representative of the Afghan resistance said in London Tuesday that a partial Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan was of no substance and would have no impact on the mujahidin's struggle to liberate their country from foreign occupation.

In an address at a Russian naval base Monday, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev announced the first withdrawal of forces from Afghanistan since their invasion more than six years ago. He said the decision was aimed at quickening a settlement at the Geneva talks which are to resume Wednesday.

Six regiments — one armoured regiment, two motorized rifle regiments and three anti-aircraft regiments — with an estimated 7,000 troops and their arms and equipment would be pulled out by the end of 1986.

But Afghan mujahidin spokesman Dr. Amanyar pointed out that the anti-aircraft regiments were of no use anyhow, IRNA's correspondent in the British capital reported. The real number of Soviet troops in his country were close to 230,000 rather than the 118,000 usually reported by other sources, Dr. Amanyar said.

The Geneva talks, said Dr. Amanyar, reaffirmed the previous position of the mujahidin that unless the true representatives of the Afghan people and the Islamic Republic of Iran were not present, the talks would have no legitimacy.

The talks, arranged by the United Nations, have been limited between the representatives of the Kabul regime and Pakistan. Iran has refused to take part.